

Superfund

Q. There was a report over the weekend, Mr. President, that questioned the administration's commitment to the EPA Superfund. Are you committed to fully funding the Superfund, sir?

President Bush. I'm committed to cleaning up the environment without enriching lawyers.

Q. I'm sorry?

President Bush. I think there's too much litigation when it comes to environmental cleanup. What I want is action and results. And so we're looking at ways to make sure the Superfund fulfills its mission. And you cannot sue your way to clean air and clean water and clean land. It's got to be a system that focuses on efficient, good ways to make sure we accomplish the mission. And I think—so yes, we're looking at ways to reform the system to make sure it works, make sure it actually accomplishes what the Congress wants it to accomplish.

Steel Decision/Hybrid Vehicles

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—and I was wondering if you could tell us if you're worried at all that your position on steel would hurt the automakers' ability—*

President Bush. I haven't made a decision yet on steel. I haven't made a decision on steel yet. I'm in the process of reviewing all—the facts. But I have made a decision on the need for the use of technologies to clean up our air and explore for more energy and change the automobile fleet.

One of these days, this little lady right here is going to be driving an automobile with a hybrid engine in it and a fuel cell in it. And it's going to work. And I hope I'm around to see it, too.

World Trade Center Bullhorn

Q. We thought the bullhorn had been lost. How were you able to find it?

President Bush. The colonel found it; it's the actual one, too.

Q. It never was lost? It's the real one? It's the actual one?

President Bush. Yes.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks,

he referred to retired New York City firefighter Bob Beckwith and his wife, Barbara; former Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York City; Col. Daniel Wiese, Assistant Deputy Superintendent, New York State Police and commander, New York State Police Executive Services Detail; and President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan. A reporter referred to Wall Street Journal journalist Daniel Pearl, who was kidnaped January 23 in Karachi, Pakistan, and later killed by his captors.

Remarks Honoring the 60th Anniversary of the Voice of America

February 25, 2002

Well, thank you very much for that warm welcome. I'm glad I came. [*Laughter*] Bob, I want to thank you very much for your hospitality, and I want to thank you very much for your willingness to take the reins of the Voice of America in such a critical time.

I also want to thank all the supporters who are here, those who support the Voice of America. And I'm glad to see so many friends of international broadcasting here: the Voice of America staff, the members of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, former Voice of America Directors, former U.S. Information Agency Directors, staff and directors from Radio Free Asia, Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty, Radio Marti. You all are dedicated professionals who serve your country and its highest ideals with honor and with purpose.

I also want to thank Marc Nathanson, who's the chairman of BBG—deserves a special thanks for his endowment of the Nathanson Fellows, between the Voice of America and the Annenberg School of Journalism.

Sixty years ago, only 79 days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the first Voice of America broadcast across the Atlantic into Nazi Germany, with these words: Here speaks a voice from America. We shall tell you the truth.

For decades, the Voice of America has told the world the truth about America and our policies. Through a World War and a cold war, in crisis and in calm, the Voice of America has added to the momentum of freedom. And now, in a new conflict, I'm proud to

say that the Voice of America still speaks strongly and clearly.

To people whose governments broadcast messages of bigotry and hate, the Voice of America sends a message of tolerance and respect. To people who are told that democracy is soft and weak, the Voice of America shows freedom's strength and determination. To people who live under governments that sustain their power with lies, the Voice of America brings truth.

Under some regimes, like that in North Korea, simply listening to the Voice of America is treated as a crime. And the fears of these regimes are well-founded, because tyranny cannot survive forever in an atmosphere of truth. The Voice of America is not neutral between America and America's enemies, between terrorism and those who defend themselves against terror, between freedom and between tyranny. The Voice of America is a broadcaster with a special purpose, a special mandate, and a special trust.

As President Reagan said, "Freedom is not the sole prerogative of a lucky few but the inalienable and universal right of all human beings." The Voice of America spreads that message throughout the world, with special emphasis on those countries where information is restricted and free voices are silenced.

The Voice of America broadcasts in 53 languages, to nearly every country on Earth, reaching an audience of over 90 million listeners. Many are listening right now, exercising their God-given right to freedom, free access of information. And their numbers are growing every day. The Voice of America's new Middle East Radio Network will offer music, reliable news and information in Arabic, and an opportunity to better understand American principles and American actions.

And I want to thank Norm Pattiz for his perseverance and dedication to this project. Even before our Armed Forces helped bring freedom to the Afghan people, the Voice of America was bringing them the news in languages of Dari and Pashtu. Since September the 11th, Voice of America has increased its programming in these two languages, serving as a vital partner in helping rebuild that country.

Throughout its history, Voice of America has applied the power of technology to the

advance of liberty. It has used every means possible—shortwave, television, and now the Internet—to bypass the barriers of tyrants. Radio waves are not hindered by borders, and as technology improves, the Internet will become less vulnerable to the censor's hand. No one knows what new information technologies will be available 60 years from now, but two things we do know: First, that the Voice of America will find a way to use them; and second, though these means of delivery may change, the message never will.

It's a simple message. It's a message of freedom, and freedom is worth defending. And the truth, no less than the force of arms, is needed for its defense.

Since 1942, you have defended freedom by speaking the truth to millions. You not only have the ear of the world; you have the gratitude of your country.

May God bless your efforts, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:16 p.m. in the Wilber Cohen Auditorium at Voice of America headquarters. In his remarks, he referred to Robert R. Reilly, Director, Voice of America; and Marc B. Nathanson, Chairman, and Norman J. Pattiz, member, Broadcasting Board of Governors. The President's remarks were broadcast live on the Voice of America.

Remarks to the National Governors' Association

February 25, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Welcome back. I've got a few remarks I'd like to make. I understand a couple of Governors are going to make some remarks, and then I'll be glad to answer some questions if you have any.

First, I again want to say what I said last night. This has been a trying time for all of us. We've been tested here in the Nation's Capital, but you all have been tested, as well. And I want to congratulate you on your great leadership.

You know, the people of our country looked to all of us to determine how we'd react after September 11th. And I was impressed by the calm demeanor of the Governors and the steady resolve to lead the people. The country cried for leadership, and